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INTERVIEW
TULLY BLANCHARD

The following is part one of an interview with Tully Blanchard that was conducted via telephone from his home near Charlotte, North Carolina on August 21. Blanchard, who left wrestling in 1989, works at his local church and coaches a football team.

John Clark: Are you upset at WCW for the way they handled the fact that you weren't coming in, as they were advertising you to be there on the very weekend of the pay-per-view (Slamboree '93)?

Tully Blanchard: Am I upset with them? Not really. I mean, I would expect it. I think that there's probably some wrestling fans that are upset. But I'm not really. I'm a little annoyed, I guess would be the fact, because I sent them a letter a month in advance and they knew I wasn't going to be there. And then to just lead fans on... I guess the way they presented it makes me look bad, but it's a past life and God closed the doors for it to happen, and there's not much else to say about it. I don't dwell on it.

Clark: When you look back on the situation now and the condition WCW is currently in, are you happy that you decided not to return?

Blanchard: The Scriptures teach you that the devil will come at you as an angel of light. I was not considering going back to wrestling just for the wrestling sake. I was going back because I thought it would be a way to reach more people with the cause of Jesus Christ. And that was through hours of prayer and things, and I continued to pray that if this was not God's will for my life, to slam door shut. And he did slam the door shut because I had gotten a little bit in error. Yes, I was saying all those things and yes, I would have done all those things because I know the experience that I have gone through since November 13, 1989, is a real experience, that God has made himself real to me and I could do nothing that God did not approve of, but still I was wanting to change my financial bracket. The offer that Ole Anderson made me was ludicrous. (laughs) It was just horrifying. If I did not know Jesus and my life had not changed, I would have been insulted. But I wasn't and so they go on and Paul Roma is a nice guy and he's got a great body. They're doing the best they can. And I'm doing the best I can.

Clark: How do you personally feel about Paul Roma taking your place as part of The Four Horseman?

Blanchard: Personally, The Four Horseman are Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, and whoever else we wanted to talk about. That's who it always was. That was the nucleus. And Ole was not part of the nucleus. He was one of the original because when we first started doing it, Ole and Arn were tag team partners and Flair and I were the singles, back in '86. And then Arn and I became tag team partners when they fired Ole. But the nucleus '86, '87, '88, was Flair, Blanchard, and Anderson. They proved when Arn and I left the WWF and he went back that two (Arn and Flair) of the three couldn't make it work. I mean, I'm just describing. I'm not criticizing or judging anybody but I'm stating a fact, because it didn't draw money. When Arn and I left, Flair was by himself, and WCW's revenues dropped. One person could not make it float. So you needed all three. The chemistry was all three. Then if you slide Luger or Windham or whoever else we slid in as the fourth person, it didn't make any difference. Or if we didn't have a fourth person and just used J.J. Dillon, it worked--big revenues, many people in many buildings. So if you don't have the three original ingredients, it's not going to work. Paul Roma is not Tully Blanchard. He's a good guy. I know him, worked out with him in the gym when we traveled with the WWF, but he is not Tully Blanchard. I was unique in the ring, as Flair is unique, as Terry Funk is unique, as Dory Funk Jr is unique. Roddy Piper was unique. Wahoo McDaniel, unique. Harley Race. People might consider that egotistical for me to put myself in a group of people like that. But these are people that went any place they ever went and made money and were main event-caliber people. I say main event-caliber because not everybody that's stuck in the last match is a main event-caliber person. Not everybody that's been in main events is box office. Dusty Rhodes, unique, tremendous box office wrestling talent. And whatever he lacked in the ring performance wise he made up for it with charisma and drawing ability. Ivan Koloff, unique. Arn Anderson, unique. Ole Anderson & Gene Anderson years ago with the Minnesota Wrecking Crew. Again, I can go on and on. But there is a tremendous amount of effort and time that it takes to become a true star in that business because there's a lot of intangibles. It's not like football where you could just say, "Hey, run over five people and make a tackle," or, "Make everybody miss you and run down the field." Wrestling is not like that. There is some intangibles. The charisma, being able to have a persona of yourself, get that across to people, and get them stirred up, and leave their homes and come to these buildings. And from what I understand, these buildings across this country for both companies are not very full. So consequently if you look at the fruit there, buildings not being full, then people are not doing their jobs on the television. So there again I say, Paul Roma is not Tully Blanchard.

Clark: Are you upset at WCW at all for taking such a legendary, established part of wrestling (The Four Horseman) and trying to make it work again by putting together what they could? And do you think

they have decreased the tremendous value the Four Horseman had?

Blanchard: It doesn't decrease the value of the whole thing because it's like gold and fools' gold. I mean, the trained eye knows the difference. You could be flattered because they're trying to re-achieve what was once there. I can remember telling J.J. Dillon when I left the ring in Philadelphia the last night that Arn and I wrestled for the WCW, "This is the end of an era." And I stepped through the ropes and went down the aisle. I didn't know that I would never go back, but Arn eventually did and I was supposed to. I was a lot more irritated with them three and a half years ago when they didn't honor their verbal agreement with me for three quarters of a million dollars over three years. That was much more irritating, but I've gotten over that too. Paul says in Phillipians, "Let the past be the past, and go on." You can't change it. There's no amount of griping, no amount of moaning, there's no amount of being on your pity-pot, anything that you can do to go back and change what they did. Or what I did. So you just learn from it and go on, and that's what I've done. There's nothing else really to say about that. I've just gone on.

Clark: After going through some hard times and then cleaning up your life and finding Jesus Christ, and coming to a point in your life where you are happy, do you think you would have been able to control temptations to get caught up in that type of lifestyle once again if you had returned to the professional wrestling business?

Blanchard: If I would have went right back, I don't think so. I don't know. I cleaned up my act the night I asked Jesus into my heart. I quit drinking, quit running around with women, quit doing drugs, quit everything. I could have probably been lured back a little bit, tempted back a little bit, but that all depends on how much seeking you do of God. Paul says that when you first get saved, you're an infant, you eat as an infant would eat. But as you get older, you eat as a man would eat. Certainly--and I'm not being egotistical--the enemy would have come at me and made it very difficult, and if I would not have lived, ate, and breathed God's word, I would have fallen. If I would have been back in that business, I would not have eaten, drank, and slept God's word, get it inside me, get it into my heart, like I did because I was stuck at home for almost a year unemployed, had lost everything. And the only thing I had was God's word, and so that brought peace to me. So I studied it and got it in me. Certainly not to the degree that I needed in me, even today. Yes, I probably would have fallen. So God closed those doors and shut those doors for me not to go back. And that's the way I prayed too. I prayed, "If this is not your will, Lord, for me to go back--because they had called and asked a number of times." Jim Herd offered me, golly, two, three, or four contracts in there over the course of the next year. And their final one was, they offered me a thousand dollars a day and only wanted me to wrestle a hundred times. And I turned that down. That's when they hired Steamboat back. It was very, very difficult to turn that money down when you're having financial problems, and it took a lot of fasting and praying for me to really seek God's will and for God to speak to me. And I don't mean that I heard an audible voice, but he just impresses your spirit that it almost sounds like an audible voice at times. But you just know that this is what God is telling you to do, and so God is taking care of any vengence that needs to be taken out on either company for what they've done to me or said about me, God is taking of them. The Bible says that no weapon formed against you shall prosper. It's God talking about his people. If privately or openly they have set out to defame me, God's taking care of it. I don't have to do nothing. If you look at their businesses and their ratings on television have dropped and the loss of TV stations, the trouble that Vince McMahon's going through, it's pretty strong. The Bible also says, "Do not harm my annointed." God called me. The Bible says in John Chapter 15, Jesus said, "I chose you. You did not choose me." So when God chose me and I surrendered to his calling and wooing and drawing me to him, he called me for a purpose. So I'm one of God's annointed. And you can't just run around and persecute and treat bad and do bad and malicious things to God's annointed without it coming back on you. People might think I'm silly but I think the fruit of that is pretty strong on both parts.

Clark: We were talking about why you would return to wrestling, and you talked about the monetary reasons and also to spread the word of Jesus Christ to more people. Because of that, what conditions had to be met as far as the character that you would portray?

Blanchard: It never got that far. They offered me a minute amount of money on a per-event basis. (laughs) It was too silly. (laughs) It really was. (laughs) I couldn't have eaten. And then you're right back in the same situation, without any insurances or anything like that. It was absolutely ludicrous. I would have had to wrestle 365 days a year to make what I made the last year in wrestling. It was almost like they were, "Okay, we've got this guy that was All-American in college, but we don't know he's going to be anything in the pros." But yet they paid everybody else on what their past record was. Well, I take that back. They paid most of the guys on potential, on what they think they could do, and they were paying exorbitant amounts of money to people that can't put anybody in a building or get them to turn their TV on. And then they wanted to offer me a very minute amount of money like I was just coming off street saying, "Hey, I've got a guitar and I can sing a song. Listen to me. You can make a star out of me." And that's not where I'm at. They might say that I'm being presumptuous, but I've walked down too many aisles and too many sold out buildings. And yes, I was not the only person there in the main event. But if you look at every main event from '85 through '88 for Jim Crockett Promotions, my name was right up there at the top. Every card that Arn and I were on for the WWF that made money, we were right there at the top. So that's where I'm drawing my basis on. You can probably answer the question where I fit into all that stuff better than I could, but I just had to chuckle at the amount of money they offered me.

Clark: But were there specific guidelines that you had in your mind about the character that you would portray?

Blanchard: The only thing they asked me not to do was preach in the dressing room. And I said I wouldn't.

Clark: But would you have portrayed a heel character or something of that sort because of the message of God you're trying to send?

Blanchard: Well, from what I understood, they were trying to make the Horseman not that anyway. And not doing a very good job of it. I hadn't gotten to that bridge with WCW yet. I knew what I had in my mind, but I had not discussed that with them. My meeting with them was mostly a listening situation, although they did ask me a few ideas. I voiced my opinion for about an hour. And then it was over with.

Clark: But because of the experiences you've had in your life over the last couple years and your devotion to the Lord, would you have become a heel or a Ric Flair type character--living life in the fast lane?

Blanchard: I'm not sure that irritates people anymore. In 1984 that got people aggravated. With the condition of our country, in 1984 people were envious of people that got on TV and talked about having the most money, having the most girls, having the most this, having the most that. With the way AIDS is, the way promiscuity is, to get on television and talk about being the most promiscuis man, whether you are or not, is that what you would call a heat-getter? Does that make the man envious of you and want to watch you get beat up? Does that make a woman drool anymore? No. I would not have been with that. I would have had to change certain things. I would have made the same very argument that I'm making with you right now to them. And I would not have been a part of that simply because I love my wife, God has blessed us with two children--two miracle children because the doctor said she could not get pregnant--they're two very healthy, beautiful children, and if they would see Daddy on television, I'd have a hard time even though I used to do it when I had no children. But how proud could my family be of me getting on television talking about

being the most promiscuis man in America and then walking home and hugging your kids? So I would not have been a part of that type of situation and I would have had to voice my opinion. And I think that I probably would have prevailed because what they're doing isn't working. You don't fix something that isn't broke. So if they're doing sellout business in Philadelphia, if they're doing sellout business in Atlanta, Charlotte, and all over the country like we used to be doing--you can talk about the hardness of society and the toughness of it, but the people still have money. They're still spending it on a lot of things. They're just not spending it on wrestling. And they're not watching it on television either or you would be doing more business in those things. So evidently whatever they're doing is not right.

Clark: How much do you think the wrestling product effects kids and their values?

Blanchard: Whether you get caught up in the values or not, if you just allow yourself to see it... We watch how many television shows in this country? I think they say before a child is age ten he will have viewed 70,000 murders from cartoons to shows. How many cars blow up? At what point does the human mind subconsciously, without even making a conscious decision this is not real, do you get numb to the fact? That people are getting killed all around us on the city streets. That they've had 400-some murders in Charlotte, North Carolina. That our nation's capital is the number one murder city in our country. That rape happens so often they don't even report it anymore. That AIDS is so rampant that they don't even talk about the increase in venerial disease that makes people loose their minds and causes them to be steryle. We're numb to these things. We're numb to the fact that you can go hit somebody with a chair and not split their brain open. So at what point do these children get effected with it? You look at our society. That's the correlation--look at our society. You tell me where this make believe killing and stuff on television leaks into our society. So yes, children whether they get caught up in it or don't get caught up in it, it effects.

Clark: What do you think it is about this business that pulls a lot of these guys into the drug and alcohol catches?

Blanchard: Well, I wasn't as bad as a lot of people think. I never came to work drunk. I had done drugs before I worked some. But I never missed work because of anything like that. It is the life you perceive a star to be because of this seemingly power that you have over, say women, and the omnipitent-like way you're treated by some people. And unfortunately, many people start believing their own press clippings, and they start perceiving themselves as a star. When in fact, as Vince has proven in many, many cases, Vince has made stars out of nothing. So everyone of them is just a pre-fabricated made up, blown up balloon. And very few of them were able to stand on their substance. Some of those people I talked to before, they survived all the politics, they survived all the pushes and people trying to pull them down, and their performance kept them up because the fan appreciated their performance, their hard work, and the substance was there so they could not be toppled.

INTERVIEW
JOHN AREZZI

The following interview with John Arezzi was conducted via telephone from his home in Babylon, New York on September 15. Arezzi founded The Pro Wrestling Spotlight in 1975 while in college and has operated radio shows and events under the name ever since. His final radio show on the 50,000 watt WEVD will be in October but he will still do his early Saturday morning show on Babylon's WNYG. He will be presenting his fourth annual Weekend of Champions Convention at the LaGuardia Airport Ramada Hotel in New York City on Oct. 22-24 featuring a card Friday night and the convention Saturday and Sunday with Terry Funk, Sensational Sherri, Madusa (in the same room?), Johnny & Greg Valentine, Ivan & Scott Putski, Kevin Sullivan & Woman, Sabu, and several Mexican performers. Arezzi also is currently negotiating to bring in The Original Sheik and Mil Mascaras. For information and tickets for the weekend's events call (516)587-2861. Now, Arezzi discusses his involvement in wrestling and responds to the criticisms that have been levied against him recently.

John Clark: What do you plan on doing in the immediate future, and are you going through a transition process from journalist to promoter?

John Arezzi: There's no question that I am in a transitional process right now from the reporting side of professional wrestling to the promotional end of it. That really started to take place over the past year, actually over the past eight months, nine months, this year. There's no question that I've covered professional wrestling most of my life and I really feel proud of what I've done with the Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Show, and I hope that I gave the listeners and the wrestling fans as much truth about professional wrestling as possible. I've covered a lot of hard stories. Some stories I wish I did not have to cover. And I wish that I could have continued on in the journalistic side of the business. However, reality hits you in the face. WEVD and all the shows that I've had have always been paid programs, where you would buy air time from radio stations. There are very few stations in this country, less than a handful, that will broadcast a professional wrestling radio talk show. It got to the point where over the past four years I'd sunk a lot of money in for radio time and airing the programs, and have not been able to make a living in the business. November of last year I was contacted by an attorney in New York City who wanted to get together with me--he was a fan of mine, one of my listners--and he said, "You should be doing more and making money in the wrestling business." And he in turn started introducing me to some people who knew I had contacts in the business. What transpired from that was that I hooked up with a talent agency who had ins with the promoters all over the world who wanted to bring professional wrestling there. Since I have the contacts and the where-with-all to put tours together, we worked out a situation.

Clark: You talked about how you enjoyed your career as a wrestling journalist. But on the financial end, how tough was it for you to survive?

Arezzi: It was very, very tough. WEVD, my last station that I was on, was $1,280 a week. To generate $1,280 a week of sponsorship in a very, very soft market--every major advertiser is squeezed for money --and not very many want to advertise on a professional wrestling talk show. It's very, very difficult to get them to do that. I tried and tried and tried, and I hit agencies and I hit sponsors, but no one wanted to advertise on a wrestling show. In a way, Phil Muchnick was right when he talked to me once--"But with you're coverage of all the scandals that took place in professional wrestling, you're really cutting your own throat with this business." But it was stories that had to be covered. It really proved to the point where a lot of mainstream people don't want to get involved in professional wrestling as far as on an advertising or sponsorship basis. It was very difficult to make a living. I always tried to each and every year, I tried to promote a wrestling fans convention to offset costs and try to make some money in the wrestling end of it without actually promoting a card, but promoting an event, a "Weekand of Champions," which I call it, to try to generate dollars. But unfortunately the first three that I put together also lost money. So it's just a matter of sinking lots of money in to the point of bankrupcy. And it just didn't work out.

Clark: In spite of losing all that money, what is it about the professional wrestling business that has kept you going?

Arezzi: Well, I'm a very persistent person. I love the business, okay. It was the first love that I ever had when I was a kid, when I first started watching it in 1966. I remember watching my first wrestling match, and getting a fan club started back in the early '70s for Fred Blassie. There was always something about professional wrestling that hit a

nerve with me. I enjoyed it, I enjoyed the drama, I enjoyed the action, I enjoyed the characters that were in it, and I wanted to be part of it. In the early '70s I pretty much did the whole gamut. I started as a fan club president, I seg-wayed into a writer/photographer for the wrestling newsstand magazines, and in the late '70s I had a little less than a handful of matches even as a wrestler, which is a little bit of an experience. I wanted to see how it would be to be in the ring. But I had always set my desires and my sights on doing something in the business. I got side-tracked and went to college and there was really not much opportunity at that time for me to get into the business so I then followed my second love, which was major league baseball. I worked for the New York Mets, which was another love of mine when I was growing up. And I managed after college to secure a spot with them as public relations director for one of their minor league teams in the Carolinas. I did that for a while and then from there I seg-wayed into the music business--this is before the big wrestling boom--in the early '80s I was managing a country singer who is very, very big right now, Patty Loveless. I got involved in that project and that kind of engulfed my life for several years. And in 1984 while I was in the rock & roll business, I turned on MTV and I saw Cyndi Lauper and Captain Lou Albano and the whole deal that was getting ready to be called Wrestlemania, and I automatically became enthralled with wrestling again. And I thought it was an opportune time to maybe get back in the wrestling business. But I did not pursue it at that time because I was involved in the music business pretty heavily. I had some acts on major labels and I wanted to see all of that through. When I hit a dead end in the music business I had something to fall back on, and that was professional wrestling. That's when I got back into it.

Clark: You've been a wrestling journalist for a long while now. Looking back now, what is it that has been rewarding to you about being a journalist in professional wrestling?

Arezzi: Well, I pride myself in--back in 1989, when I resurfaced in the business and I started Pro Wrestling Spotlight on a little station out on Long Island, a 1,000 watter--which I'm back on on Saturday mornings--I feel that the business changed. Let me backtrack, when I was in the music business and shopping record deals for the acts I was handling, I was with the vice president of Epic Records and we were talking about wrestling. I told him my background. Epic, of course, did the two WWF albums. He was a big wrestling nut, and he showed me a copy of a newsletter called *The Wrestling Observer*. He told me to take a copy of it and take a look at it. I did, and I could not believe what was being covered in a publication. Because when I was in the business in the '70s, kay fabe was the name of the game and the business was so protected that if anyone had had a newsletter like that in the '70s, it would certainly be something that would have turned a lot of heads negatively towards that person that was writing this particular newsletter. It would have never been allowed to happen, that's what I'm trying to say. So I read *The Observer* and I was hooked immediately, and it gave me a chance to start catching up real rapidly on what was going on in the wrestling business, and learning a little bit about the inside of it. When I resurfaced in 1989 with Pro Wrestling Spotlight I decided to start covering the business in a little bit of a different light, you know, portraying it as a business and talking about things that went on behind the scenes. And that was rewarding to me because it was something that I always wanted to know about--what was going on behind the scenes. *The Observer* gave me the opportunity to really know what was going on behind the scenes, and then I just used my aggressiveness to start drawing out from guests different aspects of the inside of the business. And I think what my breakthrough was on radio was in July of '89, right after that Great American Bash for NWA when Ricky Steamboat abruptly left the company. And I managed to get an inside interview with him, which really caused a lot of waves in the business. The following week after my interview with Steamboat, Jim Herd came on the program to address it. And to my knowledge, it was the very first time that two active individuals had really talked this openly about professional wrestling and in a public forum, as far as on the airwaves. And that really caused a lot of talk within the business. I just started evolving the program into just the straight news type of show. And eventually after covering several of the stories I kind of got the reputation--if you had a gripe to air, if you wanted someone to know something about what was going on in the business, you called John Arezzi and get on the show. And in March of 1990, another big explosion happened which really wasn't looked upon until a year later. Superstar Billy Graham came on my program and talked about all the problems he had with steroids and mentioned how big the steroid problem was in professional wrestling. This aired, and once again Dave Meltzer reprinted it in *The Observer*, and also got a lot of attention from that. That kind of paved the way for some other stuff that was going to go on down the road.

Clark: I'd like to ask your reaction and feelings about the three letters published in the 9/13 Observer that were written in regards to you.

Arezzi: First of all, letter number one, the letter that was written by Carlos Rey, has revealed itself to be a hoax. The real Carlos Rey called Dave Meltzer this past week and said he did not write the letter. So for whatever reason someone wrote this letter into *The Observer* and put Carlos Rey's name on it. The second real negative letter was Tom Dimino from West Babylon, which is my hometown, and he said he was a subscriber to *Pro Wrestling Spotlight Weekly*. And in all my mailing lists I can't find the guy's name, so I don't think that he is a person that truly exists. Someone else must have put his name to the letter because I have no records of him on my mailing lists or my subscriber list. So getting that out of the way, there are obviously people out there that are criticizing me. And I am the first person to admit that in some cases I should be criticized, okay. And that has to do first and foremost, getting to the Dimino letter, with the newsletter. There are still monies owed to people who subscribed to the former newsletter. And that is a black mark on my record, which I still want to take care of, and I still intend fully on taking care of it. I'm going to take care of the people who had subscribed to this newsletter. That's first and foremost. Whether it happens next week or a month from now or before the end of the year, it will be taken care of. So they're absolutely right if they criticize me about that. What else he wrote in this, basically, I really take objection to being called a hustler. Obviously, I've seg-wayed from being a journalist to the promotional end of it. As far as being a hustler, the only way that someone could call me a hustler and I would agree to, if they're calling me a hustler and saying a hustler is a guy who goes out there and works his ass off everyday to try to succeed. In that sense, I am a hustler. I don't what the conentation of what someone calling me a hustler means, okay. I guess it's very derogatory as a hustler is somebody who will go out there and deceive people. Okay, that is something I am not. And I take objection to that. I've had a very interesting career in the professional wrestling business. I've done a lot of different things. This year was the first time I've had the opportunity to make a living in professional wrestling and I'm going to continue on making a living in this business by doing stuff that I enjoy. Right now, I'm enjoying putting together a tour. The letter was false saying that I am putting together tours, just passed on some wrestlers names to some overseas promoters. That is not the case. I was approached by a booking agent. He wanted to know what wrestlers I could get for promoters overseas. I gave them a list of wrestlers that were available on the free agent marketplace. They in turn sent me a list of wrestlers they wanted me to acquire. And I booked the card for them. So in essence, I am pretty much a producer. International Wrestling All-Stars, which is the company that we have and is a company that I developed, is an overseas touring company predominately, even though we've had a few shows here in the states. One show in particular, that was the fiasco down in Texas. But IWAS is an overseas touring company. I produce tours. I package tours, not unlike someone who's putting together a circus act or a Harlem Globetrotters touring act or a rock & roll touring act. I provide what a buyer wants. That is basically what I do, as far as IWAS. I am not a promoter. I don't put up my own money. We get bids from promoters who are interested in bringing wrestling to territories around the world. And if the offer is right, we go over there and we perform. That's

basically it. There's a lot of opportunity overseas now and fortunately I'm in a situation that looks like we're going to get a lot of work in the next year or two.

Clark: Do you believe it was hypocritical of you to publicly be critical of wrestlers using steroids and organizations overlooking their employees using steroids, and then you as a promoter paying some of these same wrestlers to wrestle?

Arezzi: Okay, I'll answer that by saying this. There is no question that wrestlers that have been booked by me on overseas tours were very highly suspected of using steroids. Let me preface this by saying once again that I submit a list of available wrestlers to people overseas. They come back to me with wrestlers that they want. It is my responsibility to try to get them the wrestlers that they want. Last year, Jim Hellwig was available, and there's no question in anybody's mind that Jim Hellwig at one time was a heavy steroid user. He admitted that to me publicly on my radio show. Warlord is another case that comes to mind immediately. He had an arrest regarding steroid possession. That is a second situation, and publicly on my radio show and privately he has told me he is no longer on steroids. Okay, I have to take him for his word for that. I am still adamantly opposed to steroid use in professional wrestling. I think it's dangerous, and moreso than dangerous, it's illegal to take them. And I am dead against them. I have not changed my stance on steroids one percent. But these guys tell me that they're not on the juice. You know, unless I have them pee in a cup that I provide for them and have it tested, that is the only way that I could properly find out whether or not they're on steroids.

Clark: But let's say hypothetically the World Wrestling Federation had said to you and the media that, "Well, Jim Hellwig told us he wasn't on steroids, so we must take him for his word," as a journalist would you haved criticized them for that?

Arezzi: I would, definitely in the WWF's position of being a multi-million dollar corporation, sure, I would criticize them for not testing. What's going on in the WCW right now I find appalling, where wrestlers are refusing to take the steroid test. And they have a billion dollar company behind them. Let me tell you one thing, my stance on steroids has not changed, but I've come into reality a little bit. Whoever in this business is stupid enough to take steroids, they're going to do whatever they can to take it. A John Arezzi or Vince McMahon or Ted Turner or anyone else is not going to stop them. They're going to find a way around it. There's human growth hormone, which is undetectable. If they are willing to put their lives on the line and take steroids, then they're idiots. That's the biggest criticism I have received and in a way, using some of the guys that were suspected of using steroids and me taking them overseas with me, is it hypocritical? You know, I guess I'd be the first to admit that I cannot properly cover professional wrestling as a journalist and talk about steroid abuse publicly on radio and then go ahead and take guys overseas who were suspected of it. I'm the first to admit that. But as far as being a hypocrite, I hate to use that word. But if people want to call me that, there's nothing I can do to stop it. Do I admit I'm a hypocrite? I hate to say that about myself, and I don't think I really am in a way. There's just no way of me knowing who's on and who's off. You know, I'm providing a service for people.

Clark: What do you have coming up in the immediate future?

Arezzi: The end of November, IWAS will be doing their second tour. This would be in territories of India, Hong Kong, and Turkey. We're going abroad for another two, two and a half weeks. I'll probably get a lot of criticism for some of the names that I will be bringing over there because they were some big WWF names who I've often criticized as far as not having a good workrate or being, in my opinion, good wrestlers. That's something that I cannot avoid. You submit a list of names to promoters and they want the names with heavy duty WWF TV exposure. I kind of compare it to people who want the best mainstream stuff they can find. I'm in a position where I'm really not able at this point until we get our own television in place in different overseas markets that we'd be going into, to give them a list of exclusive wrestling talent that I want to use. So it's a tough situation for me to be forced to bring some people aboard that I may not want to bring aboard personally. But it's something that I hope will change as the company grows. Then I can be more selective and be given more of a choice of who I want to bring over because believe me, I'd rather see a Terry Funk vs Kevin Sullivan match or a Terry Funk vs Sabu match myself than some of the guys that have been on WWF TV for many years who may not be able to wrestle or perform as well as those two.

Clark: What is the extent of your involvement in Mexico's AAA?

Arezzi: My attorney Ron Skoler since I've known him has always been interested in doing something with Lucha Libre. I was a part of introducing several parties, introducing Ron Skoler to Konnan, who in turn introduced us to Antonio Pena. Mr. Skoler then brought in some financial people to actually promote the shows. We turned a situation into what was really dream--to bring the Triple-A into the states in a big way. We turned that into a reality and sold out the show on our first endeavor, August the 28th in Los Angeles. My involvement with that company is I'm on the executive board of directors of International Wrestling Council, a company we formed to work in conjunction with the Triple-A. I'm a stock holder in the corporation. However, my attorney Ron Skoler is kind of the brains of the operation. He's the guy that has put the most work into it, along with Pena and we have two promoters from the rock & roll field who have a great deal of experience with promoting rock shows and live events. I have a say in it but I'm not the booker there. I was more or less the catalyst in putting some parties together through the work that Ron Skoler is trying to do.

Clark: Finally, regarding a subject that you have followed in depth over the past few years. What are your personal feelings about Vince McMahon and the World Wrestling Federation?

Arezzi: The WWF is certainly in a very, very bad spot right now in my opinion because it looks as though any day now there's going to be something going down with the investigation that has been ongoing that's going to shake the world of wrestling. All I can say about that is this. For many, many years there were things that were allowed to go on within that company that were not looked upon and heads were turned. Being very cocky and arrogant and thinking you were above the law for so many years, it's going to hit some people in the face. And it wasn't just the tremendous amount of alleged drug use that took place, but it was also the other situations that involve alleged harassment on a sexual basis. That is something that I feel is really, in my opinion, going to bring the company down. I just hope the wrestling world in the United States survives it. But as far as personal feelings towards Vince McMahon, I don't know him very well personally. All I know is that he will do anything to save his company. But he should have thought about some of the repercussions years ago when all this stuff was allegedly going on.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

*Despite uncertainty leading up to the show that Rick & Scott Steiner wouldn't make the event, they lost the tag team titles to The Quebecers (Jacques & Pierre) by DQ (Scott hit Jacques with Quebecers manager Johnny Polo's hockey stick after Jacques had brought it in the ring) in the opening bout of the live 9/13 Monday Night Raw from New York's Manhattan Center. Also airing that night, Doink, sealing his turn, threw a bucket of water on Bobby Heenan, who did his hilarious routine. On the show that will air 9/20, P.J. Walker pinned IRS because of Razor Ramon's distraction, Scott Steiner beat Pierre, and Bigelow and Perfect won squashes, during which Heenan got it across that he had a cold from Doink throwing water on him as he was constantly blowing his nose. The funny thing is, that was taped before the incident with Doink took place that night. Anyway, it was

announced Lex Luger wouldn't be appearing due to the injury he suffered on 8/31 (not known how serious it is), therefore Bret Hart took his place as he & Randy Savage beat Yokozuna & Bam Bam Bigelow (subbing for the absent Ludvig Borga) by DQ. This was the last event for the WWF at the Manhattan Center for at least a year because of some problems/complaints that developed (that have or will result in lawsuits) in the Hart-Lawler angle in the crowd and another incident involving a security guard.

*According to sources, the much anticipated debut of Vince McMahon in the ring should take place with Jerry Lawler 10/4 in Memphis.

*After Sports Management Group rated the WWF as the most despised sport in America, McMahon wrote them a letter stating that he didn't want his company involved in any future polls. He also maintained that the WWF is not a sport.

*Tom Brandi, who got his first big break wrestling as Johnny Gunn for WCW, will be getting a tryout with the WWF by November.

*Mr. Hughes will not be coming back and he is now taking indie dates.

*Giant Gonzalez still in under contract and might return in the Fall, but he is not going to be working Memphis anymore.

*Boston Garden on 9/11 with about 6,500: Doink the Clown beat 1-2-3 Kid, Undertaker beat Adam Bomb, Razor Ramon beat IRS, Yokozuna beat Bret Hart in what Hart feels is his best steel cage match with him, Shawn Michaels & Diesel beat Marty Janetty & Mr. Perfect, Tatanka beat Bam Bam Bigelow, Steiners beat Headshrinkers.

*The TV tapings scheduled for 9/28 and 9/29 in Concord, NH and Fytchburg, MA were changed to Worcester, MA and Portland, ME. The next overseas tour after the dates in October will be in February.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

*Several publications recently mentioned that the NWA was looking at Road Warrior Hawk, Ted DiBiase, and Terry Funk as possible candidates to be the NWA champion, and WCW has now been negotiating with two of them. Hawk just signed to work a handful of dates over the next few months for WCW. Mike Graham had been negotiating with DiBiase for him to come in and work with Dustin Rhodes, but DiBiase has officially turned down their offer.

*As originally stated in *The Observer* and *The Torch,* WCW was going to lose their syndication here in Philadelphia as World Wide airs on WPHL (channel 17), which also was airing WWF Wrestling Challenge. WPHL was going to go to one wrestling show as of 9/18 and they were going to drop World Wide and keep Challenge until WCW came back with a better offer, and now World Wide is staying and Challenge has been dropped. The July arbitron ratings for Philly showed that World Wide and Challenge were very close in their ratings. Challenge had .3 (3% of sets tuned into show) rating for households, while World Wide averaged a .2. But in the demographics analysis for the 18 to 49 age group, both shows averaged .2. These ratings have traditionally go up after summer is over.

*For whatever reason, Colonel Rob Parker will no longer manage Sid Vicious and won't manage Harlem Heat as originally planned because of the fear of it being racial, but will soon manage Steve Austin. Why?

*In response to Ole Anderson's challenge on WCW's 900 line, Paul E. Dangerously 8/14 on the Real Wrestling Hotline challenged anyone in WCW to join him for a day in New York and listen to Howard Stern's morning radio show and watch *Beverly Hills 90210, Yo! MTV Raps, Beavis and Butt-head,* and one more show to see who is more hip.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

*National Wrestling Alliance: The attempt by NWA board of directors Dennis Coralluzzo, Jim Crockett, and Steve Rickard to get a temporary restraining order against WCW from switching the NWA title from Ric Flair to Rick Rude at the 9/19 PPV went unsuccessful. They went to court 9/16 in Charlotte after WCW had been prolonging the situation by saying that Rude was adamant against the notion of him not winning the title so that they could bring in a high-powered attorney, Faivus Hicks, who was formerly the NWA's attorney (represented them in a case against the WWF). NWA attorney Bob Trobich flew back from his vacation for the session, where Hicks blocked the attempted restraining order by exhibiting the bill of sale signed by NWA member at that time Seiji Sakagucki (New Japan pres; no longer a member of NWA) that sold to WCW the belt and rights to the NWA. Apparently what all of this means is that WCW does not need the NWA's permission to change the NWA title, even though they're advertising it now as just a world heavyweight title match. . . NWA member and expected WWN promoter come November, Jim Crockett, and Paul E. Dangerously were to have met in Philly with both Tod Gordon and Dennis Coralluzzo (in separate meetings) on 9/18 to discuss the NWA situation but mainly regarding their possible involvement with the World Wrestling Network, which is scheduled to re-tape their TV pilot in November.

*Eastern Championship Wrestling: Tod Gordon dissolved his business agreement with Eddie Gilbert late last week. Gordon cites "creative differences" as the main factor in the split and said they disagreed over the direction of the company. Even though Kevin Sullivan took his place at ECW's UltraClash '93 on 9/18, don't be shocked if Gilbert did some sort of run in at that show. As for brother Doug, who wrestles as The Dark Patriot, he will be staying with the organization. Johnny Hotbody and Rockin Rebel will be returning, but Stevie Wonderful isn't coming back. . . The October 1 & 2 television tapings at the ECW Arena in South Philly, titled "NWA Bloodfeast," will feature many cage matches including Terry Funk vs Jimmy Snuka and one with the Headhunters, who will also team up with Abdullah the Butcher that night. Also appearing both nights are Sabu, Sullivan, Shane Douglas, and Sabu. There will also be a very special presentation with Woman, Angel, and Tigra. . . Larry Winters is recovering from neck injuries suffered in a recent car accident. . . ECW is running house shows 10/22 at the high school in Morrisville, PA, 10/22 in North East, MD at Cecil County Community College, and an 11/13 supershow at the ECW Arena.

*The Legends of Wrestling is presenting an autograph/picture show and matches titled "Bensalem Bash" on 10/30 in Bensalem, PA at the Armstrong Middle School with Ted DiBiase, Terry Funk, Tito Santana, Kamala, Jim Cornette, Doink the Evil Clown II (Steve Keirn), Sherri Martel, Papa Shango, Jim Duggan, Sabu, Chris Candito, Road Warrior Animal, and King Kong Bundy appearing at the convention from 12pm to 5pm. The card that night at 8pm has Funk vs DiBiase, Candito vs Sabu in a steel cage match, Sensational Sherri vs Cornette in a loser gets spanked match, Shango vs Duggan, Evil Clown vs Santana, Ed the Razor vs The Ninja Turtle (Brian Hildebrand), and a four team, four corners Bensalem street fight match of survival with Kamala & Hoss; The Blackhearts; Johnny Gunn & Ray Odyssey; Boy Gone Bad & Chris Evans. For more info call (215)750-3290.

*"Formerly Ultimate Warrior" Jim Hellwig signed a three-movie deal with Paramount and is starring with Chad McQueen in *Firepower* with which will air in October or November on HBO.

*Larry Sharpe ran a show using Dennis Coralluzzo's license at the Rt. 30 Marketplace in Clementon, NJ on 9/11 with 225 fans as Ed the Razor won the junior title from Ray Odyssey in a Canadian chain match, Boy Gone Bad beat The Spider (was not Glen Ruth who's out with a serious injury) to capture the WWA title in about a minute, and Big Bossman beat Chris Evans. They return there on 10/2 with The Bushwackers. For info call (609)784-7841.

FLYER FAN FARE

*Dave Prazak's new address for his Outside Interference newsletter at $6 for 4 issues is PO Box 4005, Lisle, IL 60532. . . Eric Simms, who appeared on Howard Stern's radio show with Fred the Elephant Boy, runs Family Massage Therapy in Marlboro, NJ at 908-536-6090 and works on many wrestlers. . . ACE Wrestling World game is available from Michael Carman at 568 Fairview Dr., Carlisle, OH 45005. . . The Muscles 'N' Mor fitness center in Reading, PA has a wrestling training center with Damian Kane at 800-2-WRESTLE. . . Boyce Johansen of 5424 W. 69th Ave., Arvada, CO 80003 has a large list of magazines, newsletters, books, photos, cards, and videos for sale. $2 for catalog. . . Legion of Doom/Road Warriors merchandise can be ordered by calling 800-414-HAWK.

EDITOR'S NOTES

*The October 2 issue will be mailed out within two weeks. Featured interviews coming soon include Steve Keirn, Tito Santana, Tom Zenk, and a very big superstar that can't be mentioned right now. A new feature that I'm really excited about starting (I'd like to start it with this next issue) is a letters section where you, my readers, can write your thoughts about recent interviews that I've done and will do. I think it would be great for you to give your reactions and thoughts to the interview--you can talk about things you agreed or disagreed on with the subject, or share your thoughts about how after reading the subject's comments, your opinion of him or her changed--whether it was for good or bad. Your thoughts, ideas, and feelings about things will be valued by me, the wrestler that was interviewed, and the readers. Please send in your letters soon--in time for the next issue. You can express your feelings and reactions to the Blanchard and Arezzi interviews, and how you feel about what they're doing and what they had to say. It's time you, the readers, get the opportunity to express your feelings and ideas.

*I would like to apologize for the lengthy delay in getting this issue out, as I was in Pittsburgh for over two weeks helping move my grandmother and all her stuff from her home and into a retirement community, and I'm also in the process of moving out of my family's house as I graduated high school (please make a note of that, Bruce Mitchell) and I'm going to Pennsylvania State University's campus in Deleware County. The main focus in my life right now is my education, so I'll be publishing this newsletter every two to three weeks to avoid any stress or strain on my performance in college. I hope all of you had a great summer and I'd like to thank each and every one of you who subscribe to this publication for your support: Ross Abrams, Michael Alonso, Jack Andrews, Monisha Armstrong, Michelle Autry, Lisa Avicollie, Eric Baal, Nicholas Babo, Jared Bachetti, Steven Back, John Bailey, Kristen Baker, Terry Baker, Dave Baumkratz, Peter Baylor, Danny Bazarsky, Jim Berkley, Kelly Berresford, Jeffrey Best, Mark Bodey, Bob Bothwell, Steve Bourekas, Adolfo Boutin, Casey Boyer, Charles Brackett, Steve Bragg, Todd Bragg, Marc Breault, Zane Bresloff, John Brooks, Andi Brugioni, Ronald Brush, John Burch, Ken Bullock, Valerie Burnham, Rocco Buttofoco, Bill Callaghy, Joey Calleja, Millie Camacho, Jo Campbell, Pat Campbell, Steve Campbell, Nick Castronovo, Mark Chesner, Frank Chille, Theresa Clark, Tom Clements, Patrick Cline, Erik Cohen, Alan Cookson, Jon Cornbleet, Ronnie Crowder, Richard Cruser, Gary Cubeta, Steve D'Avanzo, David Davis, Lou Demarco, Dore Dequattro, Tim Dickson, Steve Dickinson, Walter Dingham Jr., Kathy Dispenza, Chris Docke, Lee Dodd, Mark Doe, Robert Donnelly, David Doyle, Andy Dragos, Ann Marie Duguay, Larry Dwyer, Curt Earnest, Timothy Edwards, David Eley, Patricia Esposito, Mark Faul, Rob Feinstein, Larry Fennelly, Larry Ferruggio Jr., Ted Field Jr., Tommy Fierro, Tom Fillius, Cathie Finkel, Brian Finney, Mike Fischer, Lee Fitchett, Joe Fleming, Louie Fortuna, Kazuhiko Fumoto, Rick Gallagher, Richard Garcia, Mark Gaspar, David Geck, Clement Genovese, Nick Georges, Andy Gibbs, Eddie Goldman, Mark Goraj, Ray Gore, David Graw, Jim Green, Rachel Green, Stan Greenbaum, Allan Greenburg, Russell Grey, Rob Groff, Greg Guarini, Jason Gwinn, Scott Hagen, William Ham, David Harper, Steven Harrison, Louise Harrison, Bertrand Hebert, Ron Hed, Peter Heffernan, George Hearn, Kent Herron, Marc Herskowitz, Wayne Hicks, Stefan Hollman, Fred Hornby, Gary Howerter, Larry Hubbard, Patrick Jones, Andrew Jordan, Todd Justic, Ted Kapogiannis, Shawn Kelly, Pat Kenney, Andrew King, Cornelia Kistner, Irene Knight, Bob Koenig, Doric Kopinto, David Krause, Harry Krause, Marty Kuriloff, Ben Lagerstrom, Donny Laible, Bill Lallone, Chuck Langerman, John Lanigan, Richard Lannon, Dr. Mike Lano, Matt Lawrence, John Lawson, Andrew Lecher, Ron Lemieux, John Leonard, Rita Lewis, Mark Lulgjuraj, Bob Magee, Barbara Malanche, Ted Malash, John Malia, Ray Malosiecki Jr., Tom Manicone, John Marasso, Janet Martinez, Stephen Mascarella, Conrad Maye, Rocco Mazza, Brad McFarlin, Paul McGilligan, Mike McManus, John McMullen, Joel Mearig, John Mehno, Tom Mele, Paul Meles, Mark Mihalek, Roxanne Miller, James Mills, Jason Mintz, Dan Morelano, Rico Moscaritolo, John Murton, Bill Needham, David Neiswender, Sam Nord, Patricia Norris, Bill Oakerson, Michael O'Brien, Bob O'Neil, Andy Onorato, Paul Panphil, Michael Papadinoff, Peter Paulsen, David Penzer, Jason Petaccio, Mike Pochuski, Howard Porter, Art Potter, Lynn Powell, Craig Prendergast, John Priadka, Keith Priest, Dan Reilly, Darlene Rendano, Eric Rivard, Lenny Robbins, Sharon Roberts, Howard Rogofsky, Matt Rose, Shannon Rose, Allan Ruggieri, Mark Rumsey, William Rushton, Jennie Russomando, Marianne Ryan, Matt Ryder, Ron Samuelion, Lenis Sargent, Anthony Scala, Stefan Scholz, Bill Schuyler, Brett Schwan, James Scoggan, Gordon Scozzari, Amy Sczomak, Steven Seiler, Martin Shemensky, Seth Shenghit, Ricky Short, Jim Shyman, Jeff Siegel, Richard Siegel MD, Brent Siewert, Brad Simons, Bernard Smith, Dan Smith, Leon Smith, Linda Smith, Nikki Smith, Warren Smith, Henry Sobeck, Dean Sonoda, Jeremy Soria, Louis Spivak, Richard Stafford, Victor Stanley, Bob Stascak, Peter Stasko, Bruce Steinberg, Steve Stogdale, Steven Strauch, Vince Strolli, Brent Sutherland, Brian Sweeney, Pat Sweeney, Sam Swinson, Mark Taylor, Steven Taylor, Terry Teagarden, Eric Tennant, Pete Theophall, Brad Thomas, Charles Thomas, Donald Thomas, Kevin Thommes, Marcia Thorne, James Titus, Steven Tobkes, John Troncelliti, Bailey Trueman, John Tutecky, Robert Valleau, Ken Verret, James Vetter, Ray Wagner, Gary Walter, Charles Warburton, Jason Wardaski, Joseph Wasik, Connie Wayne, Brett Whalen, Scott Williams, Dave Wright, Stuart Wright, Steve Yohe, Jeff Zinger, and all the others who probably would want to be kept anonymous

FLYER NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES- INTERVIEWS WITH:

#4: Jerry Lawler, #5: Paul Roma & Johnny B. Badd, #6: Iron Sheik & Jimmy Snuka, #7: Bruno Sammartino, #8: Kerry Von Erich, #9: Sammartino, #10: Terry Taylor, #11: Hawk & Taylor, #12: Marty Jannetty, #13: Jannetty, #14: Animal, #15: Buddy Landel, #16: Davey Boy Smith & Paul Ellering, #17: Jake Roberts, #18: Roberts, #19: Various, #20: Madusa, #21: Madusa, #22: Paul E. Dangerously, #23: Earthquake, #24: Honky Tonk Man, #25: Max Moon, #26: Bill Watts, #27: Watts, #28: Watts, #29: Watts, #30: Shane Douglas, #31: Sherri Martel. Each back issue is $2 ($3 outside of U.S.) (no color photo) and can be ordered by sending the proper payment to the Flyer address.

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could please phone in a report of any live shows you attend after the event is held to our phoneline (215)566-3852 at any and all hours of the day. Fax messages can be sent to (215)566-3852 with notification before doing so. THANK YOU.

All interviews are transcribed verbatim and the opinions of the subject being interviewed do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editor or this newsletter.

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WWF OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1993 SCHEDULE

ATIVE NDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				october 1 SAN JOSE CA	2 SACRAMENTO CA	3 LOS ANGELES CA
4	5	6	7 VALPARAISO IN TEL AVIV ISRAEL	8 MOLINE IL HAIFA ISRAEL	9 DES MOINES IA VIENNA AUSTRIA	10 SIOUX CITY IA LISBON PORTUGAL
11 AMBURG GERMANY	12 BIELFELD GERMANY	13 STUTTGART GERMANY	14	15	16	17
18 POUGHKEEPSIE NY+	19 GLENS FALLS NY*	20 BURLINGTON VT*	21 AMHERST MA	22 PITTSBURGH PA	23 BALTIMORE MD	24 HERSHEY PA
25	26	27	28 DETROIT MI	29 UNIONDALE NY	30 UTICA NY ROCHESTER NY	31 TORONTO ON
november 1 PETERBOROUGH ON	2	3	4	5 INDIANAPOLIS IN	6 RICHFIELD OH	7 PROVIDENCE RI
8 BUSHKILL PA+	9 CARBONDALE PA*	10 DELHI NY*	11 THUNDER BAY ON	12 WINNEPEG MB	13 BRANDAN MB	14 MILWAUKEE WI
15	16	17	18 NIAGRA FALLS NY	19 SYRACUSE NY	20 PHILADELPHIA PA	21 CINCINNATI OH
22	23	24 BOSTON MA#	25 OTTAWA ON	26 MONTREAL PQ	27 NEW YORK NY	28 ALBANY NY
29 WHITE PLAINS NY+	30 SPRINGFIELD MA*					

\# notes PAY-PER-VIEW
\+ notes MONDAY NIGHT RAW TAPING
* notes TELEVISION TAPING

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